

OPENING STATEMENT OF CHARLES O'CONNOR.

The Defendant.

case, which has attracted much attention in legal and social circles, came up to-day for trial. It involved the

comparatively small legacies, would have passed, under a residuary clause, to certain religious and charitable

contest on the part of the defence, as an amicable arrangement had been made before coming into court.

general question as to whether any of them were interested in the estate of Madame Jumel, or in the charitable

The jury was, without further question, constituted as follows:—Sigourney W. Fay, merchant, 48 Park place;

William street; Albert T. ... dry goods, 100 West
Twelfth street and 1st sixth avenue; Thomas James,

GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY—This action has been brought

very large wealth, and resided in the upper part of our island for a very long term of years. The paper in ques-

Before you a view of the testimony which is about to be presented, for the purpose of enabling you to come to a proper conclusion, it is necessary that I

had a brother and a sister. The brother died very early, and we have no account of him. The sister came to the city of New York about the time that she did, at the

four of the plaintiffs in this action. She had another child, who died early, and it is not necessary to take any notice of that.

at a very early period, perhaps as early as 1806 or 1807, or perhaps a year or two later), they adopted as their daughter a young girl, named Mary, who was born of her

the affection of those parents who had adopted her, until the death of Mr. Jumel, in 1832; and as to Mrs. Jumel, her mother by adoption, until she herself died in 1834.

ver, when any strict form was observed, called nephew and niece—strictly and properly sometimes in writings, grandnephew and grandniece. They were such by na

of the history of this family. In the year 1854 Mrs. Jumel visited France, taking with her both these children. While in France she negotiated and arranged for

and very soon after that, she being then at a very advanced period of life, the decline of her mental powers

which she prepared for them, with her little grandson (as he may be called), Wm. Chase, then only fourteen or fifteen years a child, riding at their head as a sort of

It was in consequence of a desire on existing on her part, and perhaps some of these people were very willing to pander to it in order to give her reason to believe

duced condition, of that condition in which her mental powers were wholly destroyed. She behaved in the most extraordinary manner in the cellars when coming

upon her and kill her. She thought he wanted to kill her and get her property. She persisted in this so that

body about her was endeavoring to poison her. She thought that Mr. Chase was endeavoring to poison her, and he was obliged to drink the tea made for her.

[illegible]